

(c) whether Government are considering any scheme to provide special training to army officers to effectively deal with said problem, especially the cases related to pension anomalies of ex-servicemen;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) There are about 8000 cases relating to various service and disciplinary matters pending before various High Courts and the Supreme Court. These cases are pending for various reasons. The defence forces take all appropriate steps so that the disposal of cases is expedited. Elaborate instructions have also been issued by the services in this regard. The officers in the Judge Advocate General branch in the defence forces have appropriate skills and training to attend to such matters. This is an ongoing process. Monitoring of court cases is also done regularly.

Spread of AIDS in Indian Army by ISI

2306. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per an intelligence report, ISI is planning to spread AIDS virus among the Indian Army and Paramilitary forces;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) how the Ministry is preparing itself to face this challenge, especially personnel guarding Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No such report has been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

Demilitarisation of Siachen

2307. SHRI JANARADHANA POOJARY:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered the Indian Army to retreat from the Siachen Glacier with a view to demilitarizing Siachen;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether this demilitarization is a token of India's confidence building measure towards Pakistan and China;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that Indian Army is of the view that leaving Siachen Glacier undefended amounts to foregoing a strategic advantage from a military point of view; and

(f) if so, the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) There is no decision taken to pull out troops from Siachen Glacier.

Declaration of Languages as Classical

2308. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to declare Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam as classical languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Representations have been received to declare Telugu and Kannada as Classical Languages. However, no such demand has been received in respect of Malayalam language. Representations, so received, are referred to the Committee of Linguistic Experts constituted by the Ministry of Culture.

Constitution of Himalayan State Council

†2309. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.